

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1287 - HB 1304

March 15, 2021

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Changes, from the Education Committee of the House of Representatives to the Education Administration Committee of the House of Representatives, to identify recipients of the Commissioner of the Department of Education's (DOE) annual report on disciplinary action in Tennessee schools.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004893):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Requires DOE to issue a grant to a local education agency (LEA) or public charter school who establishes a grant program to promote positive mental health for pre-kindergarten through grade five (pre-K-5) students especially those suffering mental health issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires each grant program established by an LEA or public charter school to be implemented in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Establishes grant program administration criteria and reporting requirements for LEAs and public charter schools, DOE, and the Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA).

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – Up to \$1,630,000/FY21-22  
Up to \$1,630,000/FY22-23**

**Other Fiscal Impact – The extent of any available federal funding received by the state that is available for this purpose is unknown and cannot be determined with reasonable certainty. Any such funding available will decrease the amount of state funding required for the grant program.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- DOE currently administers Tennessee's Project AWARE which is a federal grant program funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

- Project AWARE grants are designed to build and expand capacity to increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth, provide training for school personnel to detect and respond to mental health issues in children and young adults, and connect children, youth, and families with appropriate services.
- Project Aware provides four school districts with annual grants totaling \$1,140,000.
- Administration costs for Project AWARE are supported by federal funding which is budgeted at \$490,000 per year; this includes two federally funded full-time employees within DOE. The total amount of federal funding provided for Project AWARE is \$1,630,000 (\$1,140,000 grant awards + \$490,000 administration costs).
- It is assumed that a grant program pursuant to this legislation would be similar in nature and in scope to the work of Project AWARE.
- It is assumed that any increase in local expenditures for implementing a grant program will be recouped through the grant funds received from DOE.
- The legislation requires LEAs and public charter schools to make training available to school counselors, educators, and parents to teach them how to identify mental health issues.
- Training for school personnel and parents can be implemented by utilizing resources which are currently available, including partnerships with community mental health agencies, with family resource centers, and each district's Behavioral Health Liaison who already provides staff development through the Department of Mental Health.
- It is unknown what amount, if any, of federal funding through the CARES Act or other sources will be available and approved for implementation of this legislation.
- The proposed language stipulates that the grant program is subject to available funding. This analysis assumes that such funding could include both federal and state dollars; however, based on the similarity of Project AWARE, it is estimated that if the state were to solely establish a grant program of this nature it would result in an increase in state expenditures estimated to be up to \$1,630,000 in each year FY21-22 and FY22-23.

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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